GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4041
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2002
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING
GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of reforms being initiated in the agricultural product marketing field;

(b) the number of Agriclinics and Agribusiness Centres set up during the first half of the current fiscal year; and

(c) the number of the rural populace who gained employment under the above schemes?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): An inter-Ministerial Task force on Agricultural Marketing reforms constituted by this Department in its report has made recommendations relating to legal reforms for promotion of competitive agricultural markets, direct marketing and contract farming programmes, rationalization of market fee structure, pledge financing and warehousing receipt system. These recommendations were discussed with the Ministers dealing with the subject of Agricultural Marketing of all State Governments and Union Territory Administration and the representatives of the concerned Departments/Agencies of the Central Government at a National Conference held under the Chairmanship of Hon`ble Agriculture Minister at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi on27.9.02. There was a consensus among all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations on the need to introduce reforms in the Agricultural Marketing sector. Since the subject of the agricultural marketing fell within the purview of State Governments, they were advised to go ahead with the implementation of the reforms measures as suited to them. With a view to evolve an action plan for the implementation of the reforms, and to give effect to the recommendations made by the Task Force in this regard, a Standing Committee of State Ministers has been set up on 13.11.2002 under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of State (Agriculture).

(b): The scheme for setting up of a Network of Agri-clinics and Agri-business Centres by Agricuture Graduates is a purely Banking Sector Scheme, without any Government of Indiasubsidy or grant assistance, refinance for which was announced by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) on 23.7.2001.The actual implementation of this Banking Scheme is being monitored by the Banking Division, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, through NABARD. However, Small Farmers` Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC)and National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE) are providing training to these Agriculture graduates.

As per the information regarding success stories available with MANAGE Hyderabad,110 Agri-Clinics and Agri-business Centres were successful during the first half of the current fiscal year.

(c): While the exact number of rural populace who gained employment under the above scheme is being ascertained, it can be reasonably assumed that about 300 persons in rural areas have been gainfully employed by setting up of these Agri-clinics and Agri-business Centres.